

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, February 5, 2013 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, F. Esposito, M. Kelly, M. Schaaf, D. Stillinger, Township Liaison Kathy Abbott and township resident Marilyn Murray.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2013 and January 2014 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2013 AND JANUARY 2014

Every first Tuesday February through December 2013 and the second Tuesday in January 2014.
February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July NO MEETING, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 in 2013 and January 14, 2014.

APPROVE GREEN TEAM AND CTEC MINUTES OF January 8, 2013

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the CTEC and Green Team minutes from January 8, 2013 and Steve Carroll 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING – Steve Carroll

Sustainable Jersey update – Steve received notice that 2 actions submitted were inadequate. Steve will continue to rectify this in time for the February 10, 2013, resubmittal date.

Steve will submitted "single stream recycling DVD and promotion" and will also submit "composting" and the "eco-film series". "Rain garden demonstration" action never expires and is now part of the current submission.

SAPLING SALE

CTEC members discussed the Sapling sale and propose to buy 400 trees through the Morris County Soil Conservation District with the assistance of Joe Dunn. Township Committee approved contingency spending of \$4,000 to buy up to 80 unsold trees for planting on public land. The \$4,000 grant from Investors Bank will subsidize the cost of the trees so residents will not have to pay more than \$30-50 per tree. Commission's responsibilities include publicize, co-host and enlist volunteers. Three classes will be held to "educate" the sapling buyers as to how to plant and care for the sapling. A tree list was established by Matt Palmer and reviewed by commission members. S. Carroll motioned to approve the purchase of 400 sapling trees and F. Esposito 2nd, with all in favor.

Chatham Borough's Green Initiative Committee will fold into the borough's Environmental Commission.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

CLOSED. 15 JOANNA WAY. Block 70, Lot 14. 12-21-12. Application to NJDEP for LOI. This lot appears to drain to Wynwood Road and has a drainage easement along the rear property line. There are wet areas throughout this region. CTEC has no extra local information so will not comment.

CLOSED. PSE&G. 10-12-12. Application to NJDEP for Individual Freshwater Wetlands Permit for wetlands disturbance for construction of the North Central Reliability Project. Work in the swamp has been exemplary -

precisely 20 foot wide corridor with double silt fences and a very sturdy wood vehicle track over the wetlands. Also good up the slope away from the swamp. Erosion mostly prevented with hay bales and silt fences. Letter has been sent to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way and revegetation with native species.

CLOSED. T MOBILE NORTHEAST LLC, Block: 62, lots: 52 & 54. 7-19-12. Application to Planning Board for temporary wireless communication tower and associated equipment on the upper field at Esternay Field. Planning Board had a courtesy review of the application on Monday December 17 and approved the application. Electrical power will be brought to the site from Fairmount Ave.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. Master Plan will be put on Township website. Bhee properties site visit 3/2 meeting 3/14. Considering establishing a Green Checklist to establish the level of sustainability that is being utilized by applicants that are receiving Planning Board approval. Also discussed the use of an awards program to encourage sustainability. Reviewed Green Checklist, was not approved, spoke about removal of items and revisions with a user friendly understanding. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison.

Township Committee report. K. Abbott, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. Possible OSC volunteers at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area trail work and cleanup on April 20. S. Krishnan and M. Schaaf, Open Space Committee liaisons.

Communications Committee report. Archive page on EC website is an excellent resource, serves as backup for important files. Tree sale information will be posted on website. Changes in the works for the Township website. EC website update. F. Esposito, Chair.

Recycling Committee report. Recycling Awards dinner rescheduled. Awards to be given for CTEC recycling video and Rocket Composter. Frequency of pickups is being reviewed, along with additional cost and necessity. M. Schaaf, F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Adopt the 2013 NRI. It is complete and available on the EC website. Could use a photo for a cover page. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, M. Palmer, D. Stillinger.
- NRI does not need Planning Board approval. CTEC can approve on their own. This is considered a planning guide, cannot be relied on for legal purposes. F. Esposito motioned to adopt the NRI and M. Schaaf 2nd with all in favor.
- Greeve conservation easement needs to be accepted and recorded. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96.
- Report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Kathy Abbott will assist with this.
- Safe Routes to School - update. Report submitted to Township Committee, application will be made for grants and Gold status with the SRTS organization. "This (Chatham school district) was the only school district in which every school participated in SRTS programs throughout the school year." K. Abbott.
- Annual Workday will be held on Saturday, April 20 at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Trail needs to be clipped and outlined with poles, wood chips spread, more trash in the rear debris piles needs to be removed. We could use a nice sign at the entrance. Plan to connect the Conservation Area with the Loantaka Bike Trail via the Platt, now Morris County park, parcel. Possibility of a loop trail through the former Kirby, now Chatham Township, parcel. Open Space Committee is urging formal protection of the former Stoller parcel so the area will be eligible for grants. Volunteers wanted.
- Three changes of ownership of properties with conservation easements - Churchill to Matia at 602 Fairmount Avenue (CE held by Great Swamp Watershed Association), Dudley to Mazzilli at 130 Meyersville Road (CE held

by Chatham Township and NJDEP), Dudley to Oh at 126 Meyersville Road (CE held by Chatham Township and NJDEP). Conservation easements need to be approved by the Township Committee and recorded with the county. Kathy Abbott will assist with this.

- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Letter has been sent to NJDEP from CTEC urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way and revegetation with native species.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.
- Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.
- Consider subscribing to the DEP's news service. Go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel>

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January 2013. Letter to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way, including the North Central Reliability Project, and revegetation with native species.
- September 2012. Letter to NJDEP urging care in delineating wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01.
- July 2012. Letter to Passaic River Coalition supporting their proposed purchase of 4 parcels along the river. Letter to Township Committee urging denial of T-Mobile request to violate a conservation easement.
- June 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment urging protection of wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01. Memo to NJDEP urging protection of wetlands on Block 69, Lot 15.

EVENTS

- March 9, 2013, Saturday. New Jersey Conservation Foundation 17th Annual Land Conservation Rally. NJIT, Newark. www.njconservation.org/rally for more info. \$80.
- April 6, 2013, Saturday. Environmental Federation is holding its 27th annual conference, Stand Up for New Jersey: Fighting for Clean Water, Air & Communities, on Saturday, from 8 am – 5 pm at Georgian Court University. Get info by e-mailing njcwa@cleanwater.org. Also at <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/njef>.
- April 17, 2013, Wednesday. Recycling awards dinner rescheduled, 6:30 p.m. at the Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Ave., East Hanover. RSVP to pjones@mcmua.com by April 1.
- April 20, 2013, Saturday. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Annual Workday at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Trail needs to be clipped and outlined with poles, more trash in the rear debris piles needs to be removed, wood chips need to be spread. We could use a nice sign at the entrance. Volunteers wanted.
- June 22, 2013, Saturday. Morris County electronics and hazardous waste recycling. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Ave, Parsippany NJ 07054. QUESTIONS? Call (973) 631-5109, www.MCMUA.com.
- September 14, 2013, Saturday. Morris County electronics and hazardous waste recycling. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Ave, Parsippany NJ 07054. QUESTIONS? Call (973) 631-5109, www.MCMUA.com.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:45 PM
Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary